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Letter dated 19 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

With reference to my letter to you dated 30 July 2008 (A/62/919) regarding progress made in resolving an issue of mutual interest and concern in Thailand-Cambodia relations through a bilateral process, I have the honour to inform you of further progress made in this bilateral process.

1. Pursuant to the first meeting between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Cambodia in Siem Reap Province of Cambodia on 28 July 2008, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries held a second meeting to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern in the town of Cha-Am in Thailand on 18 and 19 August 2008. Like the first meeting, the Cha-Am meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere reflecting the warmth of relations between the two neighbouring countries and the spirit of ASEAN solidarity. Building on the progress made at the first meeting in Siem Reap, both sides succeeded in making further progress at the second meeting. The two sides warmly welcomed the reduction of tensions in the border area adjacent to the Temple of Phra Viharn/Preah Vihear following the redeployment of their respective troops from the area that preceded the Cha-Am meeting. Both sides were of the view that this progress reflected the success of the bilateral talks between the two countries.

2. The results of the second Foreign Ministers' meeting in Cha-Am on 18 and 19 August 2008 are as follows:

2.1 Both sides welcomed the first-phase redeployment of their respective troops out of the "Keo Sikha Kiri Svara" Pagoda, the area surrounding the Pagoda, and the Temple of Phra Viharn/Preah Vihear, and agreed to convene a second meeting between the Head of the Cambodian Temporary Coordinating Task Force and the Head of the Thai Regional Border Committee on 29 August 2008 in Cambodia to discuss the second phase of redeployment.

2.2 Both sides agreed to recommend to their respective Governments that the next meeting of the Thailand-Cambodia Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary be convened early in October 2008 to discuss issues related to the survey

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and demarcation of the relevant sector under the terms of reference and master plan of the Joint Boundary Commission (Khao Sattasom/Phnom Sethisom — BP1), together with Thai and Cambodian legal experts.

2.3 The Foreign Ministers of the two countries will meet again after the meeting of the Joint Boundary Commission and the legal experts.

2.4 Both sides agreed to recommend to their respective Governments to enter into a provisional arrangement, pending completion of the work of the Joint Boundary Commission in the Phra Viharn/Preah Vihear area. For Thailand, such a provisional arrangement may be entered into only in accordance with the Thai constitutional and domestic legal procedures and requirements.

2.5 Both sides agreed to consider the issue of the Ta Muen/Tamone Temples at the next Foreign Ministers' meeting.

3. The outcome of this second Foreign Ministers' Meeting, once again, firmly underlines the common will and determination of both Thailand and Cambodia, neighbours for life and members of the ASEAN family, to move ahead within the framework of the bilateral consultative process with a view to arriving at a mutually satisfactory conclusion for the benefit of the two countries and their peoples.

I have the honour to request that the text of this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 14.

(*Signed*) Don **Pramudwinai**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand
to the United Nations